

## **Tuesday, June 12, 2007**

House Meets At	Votes Predicted At
9:00 a.m. For Morning Hour	Last Vote: Evening
10:00 a.m. For Legislative Business	
Unlimited "One-minutes" Per Side	

Any anticipated Member absences for votes this week should be reported to the Office of the Majority Whip at 226-3210.

Members are advised that the official photograph of the 110th Congress will be taken today during the first series of votes. The first series of votes is expected at approximately 1:00 p.m.

# Floor Schedule and Procedure

- <u>Suspension Bills:</u> Today, the House will consider several bills on the Suspension calendar. Bills considered on the Suspension calendar are debatable for 40 minutes; may not be amended; and require a two-thirds vote for passage. If a recorded vote is requested, it will be postponed.
  - H.R. 2358 Native American \$1 Coin Act (Rep. Kildee Financial Services)
  - H.Res. 329 Congratulating the Barton College men's basketball team for winning the 2007 NCAA Division II Men's Basketball National Championship (Rep. Jones (NC) – Education and Labor)
  - 3. H.R. 2637- To amend the Fair Labor Standards Act, with respect to civil penalties for child labor violations (Rep. Woolsey Education and Labor)
  - H.Res.474 Recognizing the immeasurable contributions of fathers in the healthy development of children, supporting responsible fatherhood, and encouraging greater involvement of fathers in the lives of their children, especially on Father's Day (Rep. McIntyre – Education and Labor)
  - 5. H.Res. 455 Supporting the goals and ideals of Internet Safety Month (Rep. Bean Energy and Commerce)

- 6. H.R. 251-Truth in Called ID Act of 2007 (Rep. Engel-Energy and Commerce)
- H. Res. 473–Rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2638 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act of 2008 (Rep. Slaughter –Rules): The open rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the Congressional Record. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. Debate on the rule will be managed by Rules Committee Chair Rep. Louise Slaughter, and consideration will proceed in the following order:
  - o One hour of debate on the rule.
  - Possible vote on a Democratic motion to move the previous question. Democrats are urged to vote yes on the motion.
  - Vote on adoption of the rule. Democrats are urged to vote yes on adoption of the rule.
- H.R. 2638 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2008 (Rep. Price (NC) – Appropriations): Pursuant to the rule, debate will be managed by Appropriations Committee Chair Rep. David Obey, or his designee, and will proceed in the following order:
  - o One hour of debate on the bill.
  - Debate and votes on amendments to the bill.
  - Possible debate and vote on a Republican motion to recommit the bill.
  - Vote on passage of the bill. Democrats are urged to vote yes on final passage.

## Bill Summary and Key Issues

# H.R. 2638 – DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2008

#### Bill Total:

2007 Enacted: \$33.7 billion

President's Request: \$34.2 billion Committee Mark: \$36.3 billion

- First Responder and Port Security Grant Programs: \$4.52 billion, \$1.97 billion above President's request and \$863 million above 2007. These grants were funded at \$4.92 billion in 2004 and have been cut every year since even as homeland security costs have continued to rise.
- **REAL ID Grants:** \$50 million, not funded in 2007 or in President's request, to help states to comply with REAL ID, an unfunded mandate requiring state licenses to meet new standards.
- Transportation Security Administration: \$6.62 billion, \$307 million above 2007 and \$219 million above President's request. This includes

Explosive Detection System: \$849 million and Air Cargo Explosive Screening: \$78 million.

- Customs and Border Protection: \$8.8 billion, \$50 million above President's request and \$797 million above 2007. This includes \$1 billion for border security fencing and tactical infrastructure and 3,000 additional border patrol agents. The Committee mark adds \$27 million for 250 additional Customs and Border Patrol Officers for commercial operations and C-TPAT validation.
- Immigration and Customs Enforcement: \$4.8 billion (including Federal Protective Service), \$322 million above 2007 and \$15 million above President's request.
- US-VISIT: \$462 million, \$99 million above 2007 and matching President's request, for tracking foreign visitors to the U.S. \$230 million is withheld until DHS provides a complete schedule for the exit program or a certification that it cannot be implemented within five years, as well as a detailed accounting of operations and maintenance and contractor costs.
- Infrastructure Protection: \$272 million, \$32 million above President's request and \$44 million above 2007 to identify critical infrastructure, and assess security vulnerabilities.
- **FEMA Management:** \$685 million, \$17 million above President's request and \$150 million above 2007, including funding for regional offices tasked with helping state and locals prepare for and respond to disasters.
- Disaster Relief Fund: \$1.7 billion, equal to President's request and \$200 million above 2007, for assistance to state and local governments following a declared disaster or emergency.
- Flood Map Modernization: \$230 million, \$35 million above President's request and \$31million above 2007, to modernize and digitize over 100,000 flood maps used to determine rates for National Flood Insurance Program.
- Pre-Disaster Mitigation: \$120 million, \$20 million above President's request and 2007, for projects that reduce the risks associated with disasters.

## SIGNIFICANT CUTS

- Deepwater: \$197 million below President's request for the Coast Guard's Deepwater acquisition program with reductions to projects with high carryover funding and to projects where the lead asset has not yet been tested.
- **DHS Departmental Operations:** \$923 million, \$72 million below the President's request, the same level as enacted in 2007.
- Emergency Telecommunications: \$128.5 million for future wireless emergency systems that DHS proposed expanding by 350% but had not justified or clearly planned.
- Science and Technology: \$777 million, \$22 million below President's request and \$19 million above 2007, cut because 1/3 of authorized staff positions are vacant and purchase of new BioWatch air-monitoring systems will not occur until a study on their effectiveness is completed.
- **Domestic Nuclear Detection Office:** \$516 million, \$46 million below President's request and \$35 million above 2007. Cuts are made to the request due to staff vacancies, plans to purchase fewer next generation portal monitors than originally estimated, and cuts to the Securing the Cities program because there is not agreement on how it will operate.

#### OTHER IMPORTANT POLICY ITEMS

- Competition: Requires all grant and contract funds are obligated through a full and open competitive process except where other funding distribution mechanisms are in statute and allows DHS Secretary to waive this requirement in emergencies.
- Davis-Bacon: Mandates that all grant and contract funds only are used for projects that comply with the Davis-Bacon mandate, that federal contractors pay workers no less than the local prevailing wage. President may suspend this provision during a national emergency.
- Chemical Security: Allows state and local governments to set chemical security rules that are stronger than the federal government's and sets information protection standards for chemical facility vulnerability and site security plans.
- Air Carrier Aviation Security Fees: Allows air carriers to appeal in court fees set by TSA.
- Federal Protective Service (FPS): Prohibits DHS from cutting the number of FPS police until FPS provides local law enforcement agencies information on the number and types of cases FPS police handle and reaches agreement with them on how these cases will be handled in the future.
- **Secret Service:** Limits employee overtime to same amount as other DHS entities \$35,000 per year and grants the Secretary the ability to waive that limit.
- Limitation on Principal Federal Official positions: Prohibits any funds from being used to support Principal Federal Official positions during declared disasters or emergencies as these positions overlap with the Federal Coordinating Officer position authorized in statute.

# **Quote of the Day**

"He who wrestles with us strengthens our nerves and sharpens our skill. Our antagonist is our helper." -Edmund Burke

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